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The official returns of infectious diseases for the week show 6 cases of plague with 5 deaths in Kobe.

*Plague rats on a vessel.*—The steamship *Chikuzen Maru*, plying between Shanghai and Yokohama, en route to Yokohama, while stopping at this port was discovered to be infected with plague rats. The vessel proceeded to Yokohama, where she was detained 10 days in quarantine and thoroughly fumigated according to the Japanese quarantine laws.

#### MEXICO.

##### COATZACOALCOS—Inspection of Vessels.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Thompson reports, December 16:

Vessels inspected: December 14, steamship *American*, with 45 in crew, for New York; December 15, steamship *San Cristobal*, with 30 in crew, for Port Arthur, Tex., and steamship *City of Mexico*, with 25 in crew and 8 passengers, for New Orleans. No quarantinable disease present.

##### SALINA CRUZ—Fumigation of Vessel.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gochicoa reports, December 16:

Two weeks ended December 15. Steamship *Mexican*, for San Francisco, fumigated December 7.

#### PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

##### Cholera in Cebu.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, November 24:

During the past few weeks there has been a constant decline in the number of cases of cholera reported in the city of Manila and in the provinces, but the number of infected towns has remained about the same. The danger which this disease is to a community, even though present in sporadic form, is well shown by the experience of Cebu during the past week. The last known case of cholera in Cebu occurred more than a week prior to November 12. On November 13 there were 10 cases reported; the succeeding day 43 cases; the next day 44 cases, and the following day 73 cases. The victims practically all lived in one section of the city, and the water supply of this section at once came under suspicion. The trouble was soon located in several wells in which, no doubt, material from a cholera stool had found its way. Most energetic measures were taken; the water in the wells of the infected district was made into a 3 per cent solution of carbolic acid, and this solution was then pumped out and distributed over as large a section of the ground in the neighborhood of the wells as possible. After this the wells were closed; the sick were isolated in rapidly-improvised hospitals, public closets were constructed, and these, as well as private closets, were regularly disinfected; a house-to-house inspection was made; distilled water distributed, and thorough disinfection of all houses in the infected district carried out. An immediate decline took place in the number of cases, until on November 21 the number had fallen to 5 cases per day.

The foregoing experience again demonstrates in a most effective manner the value of a properly organized health force available on the ground to combat outbreaks of this kind. It is not inconceivable

that, unless prompt measures had been taken, a pandemic of cholera would have taken place among the residents of the island of Cebu, which consists of a population of over 800,000 people, and is one of the most thickly settled provinces in the Philippines. An outgoing maritime quarantine was immediately imposed. One case of cholera developed on the steamship *M. Yaptic*. The vessel and personnel were disinfected and no further cases occurred.

#### Cholera and Smallpox—Inspection of Vessels.

Doctor Heiser further reports, November 17 and 24:

Week ended November 13. Eleven cases of cholera with 11 deaths occurred in the city of Manila. Week ended November 20. Eight cases of cholera with 9 deaths and 2 cases of smallpox occurred in the city of Manila.

#### *Cholera in the provinces.*

##### WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 13.

Province.	Cases.	Deaths.
Albay.....	4	4
Bataan.....	83	51
Bohol.....	16	10
Bulacan.....	12	12
Camarines.....	1	1
Cavite.....	41	32
Cebu.....	17	15
Oriental Negros.....	1	1
Pampanga.....	2	2
Rizal.....	4	3
Tarlac.....	9	5
Total.....	190	136

##### WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 20.

Albay.....	2	2
Bataan.....	32	22
Bohol.....	9	4
Bulacan.....	12	7
Camarines.....	4	4
Cavite.....	20	16
Cebu.....	190	141
Pampanga.....	6	3
Oriental Negros.....	9	4
Total.....	284	203

*Inspection of vessels at Manila.*—November 8, the British steamship *Indrasamha*, with 63 in crew, en route from Kobe to Boston and New York, was granted a supplemental bill of health. Cargo inspected during loading and personnel inspected at hour of sailing. November 8, the British steamship *Kumeric*, with 76 in crew and 2 cabin passengers, was granted a bill of health for Seattle. Cargo inspected before loading. Entire personnel inspected prior to sailing. November 9, the British steamship *Changsha*, with 74 in crew and 25 cabin and 45 steerage passengers, en route from Hongkong to Zamboanga, granted a supplemental bill of health.

November 14, the U. S. Army transport *Thomas*, with 189 in crew and 155 cabin and 306 steerage passengers, was granted a bill of health to San Francisco via Nagasaki and Honolulu. Vessel partially dis-

infected. Crew and steerage passengers bathed, and their effects and baggage disinfected. Cargo and baggage inspected and either disinfected or passed. All persons on board inspected at the Mariveles quarantine station prior to sailing. November 19, the British steamship *Kaifong*, with 65 in crew and 44 passengers, en route from Hong-kong to Cebu and Iloilo, was granted a supplemental bill of health. November 19, the British steamship *Cranley*, with 34 in crew, en route from Norfolk, Va., to Cebu, was granted a supplemental bill of health. November 26, the American steamship *Korea*, with 277 in crew and 536 passengers, was granted a bill of health for San Francisco via Hongkong, Japan ports, and Honolulu. Cargo inspected prior to loading. Passengers embarked at this port were inspected prior to sailing.

#### RUSSIA.

##### ST. PETERSBURG—Status of Cholera.

The following information, dated December 7, was received from Chargé d'Affaires Schuyler, through the Department of State, December 28:

A communication from the minister of foreign affairs states that during the period from November 21 to 27, there were 81 cases of cholera, with 35 deaths, in Russia, occurring as follows:

Cities and governments.	Cases.	Deaths.
St. Petersburg .....	14	6
Baku .....	10	7
Governments:		
St. Petersburg .....	9	6
Vitebsk .....	2	—
Kovno .....	8	3
Jaroslav .....	—	1
Kostroma .....	3	4
Baku .....	4	3
Pskov .....	10	—
Kursk .....	3	—
Ekatherinoslav .....	4	1
Taurida .....	14	4
	81	35

##### LIBAU—Examination of Emigrants—Plague.

Acting Assistant Surgeon De Forest reports, December 12:

Week ended December 9. For the steamship *Russia*, sailing December 14, 52 emigrants have been examined and 130 pieces of baggage disinfected.

One fatal case of plague has occurred in Libau.

#### TURKEY.

##### SMYRNA—Smallpox Mortality.

The following was received from Consul-General Harris, under date of December 4:

The number of deaths from smallpox now being reported has decreased from a maximum of 20 a day, 2 months ago, to 5 or 7 a week.